

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

18-312.

In Part III of this subtitle, "public health veterinarian" means the veterinarian whom the Secretary designates as responsible for the veterinary public health program of the Department.

18-313.

The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide a statewide system:

(1) To control rabies;

(2) TO GRANT AUTHORITY EQUALLY TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIAN AND THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS THAT BITE OR OTHERWISE EXPOSE RABIES TO AN INDIVIDUAL;

[(2)] (3) To treat each individual who is exposed or suspected of having been exposed to rabies; and

[(3)] (4) To distribute, in accordance with the conditions set by the Secretary of Agriculture, the biological products that are needed to prevent and treat rabies.

18-316.

(a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an individual immediately shall report to the local police or sheriff if the individual:

(i) Knows that a dog, cat, or other warm blooded animal has bitten, scratched, or otherwise exposed an individual to a possible rabies infection; or

(ii) Suspects that an animal has rabies.

(2) In Frederick County, the individual shall report to the animal control center of Frederick County.

(b) On receipt of a report under this section, the police, sheriff, or animal control center staff shall:

(1) Notify the health officer for the county where the report is made; and

(2) Enforce all orders of the health officer and the public health veterinarian.